THE PRESENTMENTS OF The Grand-Jury for the County of NORTHAMPTON, AT *Lent*-Aſsizes, Anno Triceſimo quinto Regis *Caroli* Secundi.

WE have ſeen the Preſentments of the Grand-Jury Sworn for the Body of this County at ~~*Laſter*~~ Epiphany Seſsions laſt paſt, in theſe words following:

AD Generalem Seſsionem Pacis Domini Regis tent' apud Northampton *pro Com' predict' die* Martis *prox' poſt Feſtum* Epiphan' *Dom' Anno Regni Domini noſtri* Caroli *Secundi Dei gratia* Angl' Scoc' Franc' & Hiberniæ *Regis Fidei Defenſor' &c. Triceſimo quarto.*

The Preſentments of the GRAND-JURY of the County of *Northampton.*

WE preſent it as a neceſſary Duty upon all Magiſtrates, to put all the Laws in Execution which are made to Suppreſs Unlawful Aſſociations, Conventicles, Clubbs and Cabals, becauſe we find by daily Experience, that in thoſe Neſts have been hatched all the Seditious Practices which of late have much endangered the Peace of the Nation.

Item, More particularly we preſent all Unlicenſed Coffee-houſes or Places wherein Falſe and Seditious News are invented and ſpread abroad to delude and poyſon the People.

Item, We preſent all Publique Meetings of any conſiderable number of people who may be ſuſpected of diſaffection to the Government, to be very Dangerous to the Publique Peace, and expedient to be Suppreſſed, Saving where there ſhall appear any lawful warrantable occaſion of ſuch meeting.

Item, We preſent as a thing abſolutely convenient and neceſſary, that all Laws be duly put in execution againſt all Diſſenters from the Church of *England*, as it is by Law eſtabliſhed, of what perſwaſion ſoever, it being impoſſible to diſtinguiſh Papiſts from others, Both extremes being equally dangerous and deſtructive to the Eſtabliſht Government; And ſeeing that ſeveral of them take it upon themſelves to Teach and Preach in Unlawful Aſſemblies, Conventicles and Meetings, and there Seduce many of his Majeſties Subjects from their Duty and Allegiance, We do therefore deſire that the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy may be tendred and adminiſtred to them and to all the Perſons before ſpoken of, and to all other Perſons of ſuſpected Faith and Allegiance to his Majeſty and his Lawful Heirs and Succeſſors, for the better Diſcovery of men ill-affected to the King and the State of this Realm, and conſequently for the Prevention and Diſappointment of their Evil Purpoſes.

And we do deſire ſuch further and effectual care may be taken for the Preſervation of the Publique Peace and the Tranquillity of his Majeſties good Subjects, as in your Judgments you ſhall think legal and meet.

Upon delivering the Preſentments above mentioned into the Court by the Grand-Jury ſworn to enquire for the Body of the County, it was Ordered, That they have the Hearty Thanks of the Court for their Loyal and Seaſonable Preſentments, and Sir *Roger Norwich* Baronet is deſired to acquaint ſome of the Miniſters of State with the Contents, humbly to beſeech his Majeſty to grant his Commiſſion to certain Perſons authorizing them to give the Oaths aforeſaid, and receive his further Command.

We do fully concurr with them in Sence and Judgment, and are credibly informed, that his Majeſty hath well approved the ſaid Preſentments, and thereupon hath given Commiſſion and Power to ſeveral Lords and Gentlemen to tender and give the Oath accordingly.

Upon Conſideration thereof, we think it our duty to preſent it as neceſſary and expedient for the Good of the King and Kingdom in General, and this County in particular, that it be forthwith tendred to all Perſons ſuſpected to be Papiſts, or of Popiſh Principles, and to all and other Recuſants and Diſſenters from the Church of *England*, of what perſwaſion ſoever. And whereas we find by experience, that ill men for the ſupporting of Faction and the obſtructing of Juſtice, do endeavour to get themſelves into publique Offices, Truſts and Employments, the better to compaſs their wicked Deſigns; For the prevention thereof, and to the end that good and lawful men may be encouraged and employed, We do therefore preſent it as a neceſſary and previous Teſt, That all Officers whatſoever, and namely High-Conſtables, Petty-Conſtables, Bayliffs, Church-Wardens, Overſeers of the Poor, and other Officers and Miniſters, before they enter upon the Execution of their Authority, may take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, and produce a Certificate under the hand of the Miniſter of the Pariſh wherein they live, That they are perſons conformable to the Church Government, and have received the Sacrament according to the Rites of the Church of *England* within Twelve Months laſt paſt.

And further, Whereas all Ale-houſe-keepers and Victuallers, and other Perſons keeping publique houſes, have a great advantage of ſpreading Seditious News in reſpect all ſorts of People frequent thoſe places, and have a great temptation likewiſe ſo to do in regard of the Cuſtome it drawes to them; We do therefore preſent it as Expedient, that none be Licenſed for the time to come but thoſe that ſhall take the aforeſaid Oaths, and in all things teſtifie their conformity to the Government in Church and State.

And whereas ſeveral Robberies have been of late committed within this County, to the great grievance and burden of his Majeſties good Subjects, and that the ſaid Robbers and Thieves are aided and encouraged by ſeveral Ale-houſe-keepers and Victuallers who are Confederates with them and Setters for them, We therefore deſire for the future, That all Inns, Ale-houſes and other publick houſes of Entertainment, do give notice to their Conſtables or other Officers, of all ſuſpicious Perſons that ſhall come to their houſes, to the End that Account may be taken of them; And on fayler hereof they may be ſuppreſſed.

And whereas ſeveral good men who would willingly perform and execute their Duties, yet for want of knowledge or information know not how to perform the ſame, and others pretending ignorance, will not do it, We therefore preſent, That it is convenient and neceſſary for the due execution of the Laws, that all Officers at Aſſizes and Seſſions of the Peace, have certain Articles comprehending their Duties exhibited to them before they make their Preſentments, and may be enjoyned to anſwer upon Oath particularly to them.

Subſcribed by the whole Grand-Jury.